

REMARKS

Dealing with initial matters first, the Examiner has entered a number of informal objections as to form the Abstract of the Disclosure, the specification and claim 1. By way of this Amendment, Applicants have amended these portions of the specification to address the informalities noted by the Examiner. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 2, and to further recite that the CVD process is a furnace chemical vapor deposition (FCVD) process. It is submitted that the prior art applied by the Examiner does not teach or suggest the FCVD process of claim 1.

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson, et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,690,868. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson, et al.

Regarding, Anderson, et al., while this reference does produce fibers having a low phosphorous content, it does not use FCVD. Instead, Anderson, et al. uses MCVD (Modified Chemical Vapor Deposition) which is an entirely different process. The difference between a FCVD process and a MCVD process is that the former uses a furnace during deposition whereas the later uses a burner which gives rise to different characteristics of the resulting optical fiber because the layers of the preform are built up in a different way.

When MCVD is used in combination with a low phosphorus content (the Anderson, et al. method), this would lead to non-optimal optical characteristics for the optical fiber.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No.: 10/720,670
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q78568

The present invention can be seen in the combination of a low phosphorus content with the use of FCVD process.

Therefore, amended claim 1, patentably distinguishes over Anderson, et al..

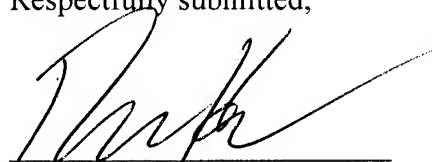
Regarding Kato, et al., this reference is directed to submarine cables with optical fibers. However, Kato, et al. do not disclose the use of a, FCVD process. Hence, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the teachings of Anderson, et al. and Kato, et al. and if he would combine the teachings, he would not arrive at the FCVD process of claim 1. Hence claim 1, as currently amended, is patentable over the combination of Anderson, et al. and Kato, et al.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted, that the application is now in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian W. Hannon', written over a horizontal line.

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